

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT:MEETING OF THE GROUP ON FORCE DATA MANAGEMENT AND
ANALYSIS

REFS: A. DRC(FDMA)N(75)4; B. DRC(FDMA)N(75)5;

C. DRC(FDMA)N(75)3; D. USNATO 5242 DTG 251544Z SEP 75

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REFERENCES A, B, AND C.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFERENCE A, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING
SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA.

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A. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE FILES WILL BE COMMON TO BOTH AIR AND GROUND FORCES. THUS, WE SUGGEST THAT THE CONFEREES ONLY SPLIT UP FOR DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS ON THE TOEP AND PERF FILES.

B. THERE APPEAR TO BE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR BOTH WARTIME AND PEACETIME DATA. WE SUGGEST THAT THE AGENDA BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AN ITEM QTE CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXPANSION OF THE NFPDB TO INCLUDE GDP AND EDP DATA. UNQTE.

C. WE RECOMMEND THAT SHAPE BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO THE GROUP ON THE CONTENTS AND USE

OF THE SHAPE DATA BASE. THIS WILL HELP US TO IDENTIFY GAPS AND VOIDS THAT THE NFPDB SHOULD FILL. THIS PRESENTATION WOULD TIE IN WITH OUR DISCUSSION OF ITEM B ABOVE.

D. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NAMSA MAINTAINS A DATA BASE THAT CONTAINS DATA ON EQUIPMENT. TO HELP US IN OUR DISCUSSION OF THE PERF FILES, WE RECOMMEND THAT NAMSA BE INVITED TO THE MEETING AND TO GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THEIR DATA BASE.

E. WE ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING ON GIVING A PRESENTATION THAT DESCRIBES OUR RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NFPDB.

3. OUR COMMENTS ON REFERENCE B ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE US CAN ONLY PROVIDE AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT HOLDINGS. WE HAVE FOUND IT IMPRACTICAL TO WORK WITH ACTUAL HOLDINGS DUE TO DAILY FLUCTUATIONS IN THESE NUMBERS.

B. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE IS FAR MORE COMMONALITY IN THE EQUIPMENT HOLDINGS OF UNITS AS COMPARED TO PERSONNEL STRENGTHS. FOR THIS REASON, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE TOEP FILE CONTAIN ONLY EQUIPMENT DATA AND THAT PERSONNEL DATA BE MAINTAINED IN THE UNIT FILES.

4. OUR COMMENTS ON REFERENCE C ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CREATE AND MAINTAIN A VIABLE NFPDB HAVE ALWAYS SUFFERED IN THAT THEY BECAME TOO COMPLEX TOO QUICKLY. AS A RESULT, THE DATA BASE NEVER QUITE PROGRESSED FROM A CONCEPT INTO A USEFUL AND DYNAMIC SOURCE OF DATA. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT DRC N(75)3 CONTAINS THE TYPE OF DATA THAT WE EVENTUALLY WOULD LIKE TO INCORPORATE INTO THE NFPDB AND, IN FACT, INTO OUR NATIONAL SYSTEMS. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME, IT OVERWHELMS THE READER. WE WOULD

RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS.

(1) CONSOLIDATE ALL DATA PRESENTLY IN DRC(FDMA)N(75)3 THAT PERTAINS TO DATA BASE DESIGN PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLISH IT UNDER A SEPARATE COVER OR AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CODEBOOK FOR THE NFPDB.

(2) DELETE ALL INFORMATION ON UNIT, ORGA, ETC. THAT IS ALREADY CONTAINED IN DRC(FDMA)N(75)2.

(3) RESTRUCTURE THE REMAINING MATERIAL SO THAT IT COMPLEMENTS DRC(FDMA)N(75)2. THIS RESTRUCTURING SHOULD EMPHASIZE SIMPLICITY AND SHOULD ONLY IDENTIFY THOSE DATA ELEMENTS THAT ARE MOST NEEDED IN THE AIR SECTION OF THE NFPDB. INGERSOLL

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